

that if those females had been mated to the worst learners among the trained rats, the performance of their progeny would have been no different from that of the previous litters, except in so far as the mothers would have had a longer time to learn and teach their lesson.

McDougall does consider the possibility of some form of communication between rat and rat, but dismisses it rather summarily. To me, however, it seems the crux of the whole question. Fortunately, it can be easily put to the test in more than one way.

(1) The training of the trained rats should be discontinued for two clear generations; and the learning facility of the third generation then tested.

(2) Newly-born litters of untrained rats should be given to training foster-mothers of trained stock.

(3) The reverse to (2).

(4) As a refinement of (2) and (3) some of the litters tested should be half of trained and half of untrained stock, and some of these mixed litters should be reared by training females of trained stock and some by untrained females.

(5) Individual rats of both stocks should be securely segregated from communicating with each other before and during training, while another group should be kept in a colony.

Also, some effort could perhaps be made to discover what are the physical factors involved, and so to give yet further value to an exceptionally fine piece of work.

F. A. E. CREW.

## LEGAL

**The Eugenics Society. *Family Council Law in Europe.*** London, 1930. Pp. 86+xi. Price 3s. 6d.

THIS little book, which has been produced and issued by the Eugenics Society, is the outcome of an inquiry "into the method of the appointment and the functions of Family Councils in existence in some continental countries, as a means of deal-

ing with a certain class of weak-willed irresponsible individuals on the border line of certification."

The investigation was rendered possible by the generosity of a Fellow of the Society who provided a sum of money for the purpose, but desires to remain anonymous.

The Council of the Society appointed a committee, with Mr. C. J. Bond as chairman, to inquire into the subject, and this committee arranged with Mrs. K. E. Trounson to carry out the investigation in the different continental countries. The present book is in substance the report of the committee; it embodies Mrs. Trounson's researches with an introduction written by her; and contains a sketch of the methods adopted in eight different countries (including our own) for dealing with the mentally deficient. The summary of the English law on the subject is supplied by Mr. W. H. Gattie, Barrister-at-law.

The subject is a difficult and complicated one, and it is no small achievement to have given an adequate summary of the mental-deficiency laws of so many countries within the limits of this one small volume. The book will be of great utility to students of the subject, and all concerned in its production are to be congratulated on the successful accomplishment of their task.

It is very interesting to study the methods adopted by different countries to attain the same end—the care of the persons and property of incapables—but it is doubtful whether there is much that we could usefully borrow from any of the continental systems dealt with in this book. Our own procedure for getting the persons and property of defectives placed under proper control seems to your reviewer both more expeditious and less cumbrous than that which prevails in the countries that have adopted the Family Council principle—or indeed in any of those countries whose systems are described in this book, some of which are not, strictly speaking, Family Council systems.

The trouble is that the provisions of our law on this subject are not sufficiently well

known and therefore not sufficiently utilized. For example, there are few, probably, who know that the power of placing a defective under guardianship or into an institution is exercisable under the Mental Deficiency Acts by county court judges and police magistrates, who act on a simple petition, and may hear any application in private. It is also not generally known that such applications may in the case of an adult, be made by "any relative or friend" of the alleged defective. Further, none but a very few seem to know that the definition of "mental defectives" has been recently enlarged, or realize the full implications of the definition of "feble-mindedness" which the Acts contain. How many, too, are aware of the provisions of section 116 of the Lunacy Act, 1890? That section contains some very useful, but not sufficiently well known, provisions for the protection of the property of those who "through mental infirmity arising from disease or age are incapable of managing their own affairs." The section also contains provisions expressly designed to prevent the stigma of lunacy attaching to those to whom it relates.

The fact is that sufficient use is not made of our existing law; and this is due partly to ignorance of the law, partly to the indifference of local authorities, and largely to the reluctance of relatives and friends, for various reasons, to take proceedings except in cases of well-marked insanity.

Some of us, no doubt, would like to see the definition of mental deficiency still further extended—in particular by removing the requirement that the defect must have existed before the subject attained the age of eighteen years—and would also like to see the powers of the judicial authority considerably enlarged; but there does not seem to be much wrong with the procedure prescribed for dealing with those persons who do come within the Acts.

In the introduction Mrs. Trounson writes: "It cannot be too strongly emphasized that in England to-day there is no form of recognized guardianship that

can be applied in order to assist such persons as the dipsomaniac, spendthrift, the continual litigious, and others." Without further explanation this statement is perhaps likely to cause some misapprehension. It is perfectly true that a man cannot be put under a guardian or into an institution *merely* because he is a drunkard, or *merely* because he is grossly extravagant, or unduly fond of litigation. The English law requires something more, namely mental defect; but habitual drunkenness is expressly mentioned in the Act of 1913 as one of the grounds on which a mental defective may be sent to an institution or placed under a guardian. Extravagance and litigiousness are not expressly mentioned; but if these characteristics are displayed in an extreme form, not only would the judicial authority attach great importance to them as being probably symptoms of mental defect, but, if mental defect is otherwise established, would take them seriously into account in considering what is the appropriate method of dealing with the case.

There is doubtless much to be said for the suggestion made by the anonymous donor and quoted by Mr. Bond in the preface, that "something should be done to prevent the evil which is caused among the well-to-do classes when, the family substance having been dissipated in one generation, the next finds itself seriously handicapped for parenthood, although the natural endowment of its members may be well worth preserving." It should, however, be borne in mind that among the well-to-do classes in this country it is customary to guard against this evil by means of marriage settlements which put it out of the power of the first generation to dissipate the capital; and that, with the same object, testators frequently put their property into settlement by their wills. It is also worth considering whether it is eugenically wise to encourage reproduction of a stock which springs from one who is so weak-willed or incapable as to be unfit to manage his own affairs.

If it is, nevertheless, deemed desirable to deprive the spendthrift or the in-

competent of the right to manage his own property although he cannot be brought within the definition of a defective, your reviewer would suggest that all that is required is a very simple amendment of the Mental Deficiency Acts, and that it would be unnecessary to adopt the machinery of the Family Council.

One gathers that in order to prevent the stigma of insanity attaching to those who are alleged to be defectives, Mrs. Trounson favours the establishment of a special court to be known by some such title as the "Guardianship Court," which should also have jurisdiction in matters concerning the guardianship of infants and the control of their property. Is this necessary? The county court which, as already pointed out, has jurisdiction under the Mental Deficiency Acts, is in no way associated in the public mind with lunacy and already deals with the guardianship, custody, and adoption of infants.

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## MIGRATION

**Carrothers, W. A.** *Emigration from the British Isles*. London, 1929. P.S. King. Pp. 328. Price 15/-

**Willcox, W. A. (Editor).** *International Migrations*. Vol. 1 (introduction and notes by Imre Ferenczi). New York, 1929. National Bureau of Economic Research. Pp. 1,112. Unpriced.

PROFESSOR CARROTHERS of the University of Saskatchewan has compiled a concise, well-documented history of British emigration, which is accompanied by twelve statistical tables, and forms a most useful compendium on the subject. It traces emigration to the United States and Canada through its various phases, from that which followed the break-up of the Scottish clan system after the rebellion of 1745, its renewal after the Napoleonic wars, and again after the

potato disease had smitten Ireland with famine. The author describes how the movement to Australia began in consequence of the British Government having to find relief for the overcrowded prisons after the United States had become independent, and how it first became extensive after the discovery of gold in mining quantities in 1851.

He also explains, in a series of chapters, the improved principles of colonization expounded by Wakefield, successfully practised in New Zealand by Sir George Grey, and applied to Canada in the famous Durham Report. The author gives a graphic account of the hardships endured by the early emigrants, and of the horrors of the voyage; he quotes the opinion that the conditions on the emigrant ships from Ireland were worse than on the slave ships from Africa. The sufferings were also more severe and the death roll heavy after landing, owing to the lack of preparation in the immigrant countries.

The chapters dealing with current problems begin with the lull in emigration from about 1884 to 1900. It became active again, chiefly to the United States, in the early part of this century, when that to Australia, under the influence of British Empire sentiment, reached its maximum. During the period 1902-13 British emigration was between 200,000-300,000 a year, and the maximum of 389,000 was reached in 1913. It then collapsed, but a spurt after the war raised the figure to a little over a quarter of a million in 1923. Since then it has averaged about 150,000, and the reduction in emigrants approximately corresponds with the difference between the increase in population and the increased numbers that British industries have been able to employ.

The book gives a useful account of the British emigration societies and of recent legislation on the subject. The author discusses the post-war Overseas Settlement schemes, and regards them all as either complete failures, such as, according to him, the Group Settlements in Western Australia and the Empire Settlement Act of 1922, or as having done far less than was expected, like the 2,000 families' settlement of Vic-